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*Sermons on the Characters of the Seven Churches in Asia*, described in the book of Revelation; to which are added, two Sermons on the distinction between "secret and revealed things in religion." By W. Muir, D. D. Minister of St. Stephen's Church, Edinburgh. Waugh and Innes, Edinburgh. Curry and Co. Dublin, and Whittaker and Co. London, 12mo. pp. 288.

This excellent little volume contains twelve sermons, of which ten are devoted to certain portions of the addresses of the Spirit to the Asiatic churches, recorded in the second and third chapters of the Revelation of St. John. There is no attempt in these sermons by any fanciful or presumptuous conjectures upon the mystical parts of the Apocalypse, to satisfy the cravings of a vain and sinful curiosity respecting the hidden things of God; on the contrary they are all eminently practical, and abound in the expression of rational scriptural piety. We were particularly pleased with the two sermons on the character of the church of Laodicea, of which the first treats of listlessness in religion, suffering the love and fear of the world to stifle the fear and the love of God; and the second, of the condescending love and affectionate invitations of our blessed Redeemer, to repentant and believing sinners. The whole volume stands in sober and highly commendable contradistinction to the wild speculations of certain others of the Scottish divines of the present day.

As we have a great aversion to sweeping and indefinite accusations against bodies of men, we think it right to add, that we allude particularly to the recent productions of Mr. Edward Irving, and Campbell of Row, author of the Gairloch heresy, founded apparently on some of Mr. advocate Erskine's mystical lucubrations.

*Titi Livii Historiae Libri omnes qui extant*, cum annotationibus probatissimis et utilissimis, ex omnibus prioribus commentatoribus accurate selectis, et anglice redditis, &c. A. J. Prendeville. Tomus primus, in usum Scholiarum. Editio secunda, priore longe auctior atque emendatior. Dublini: veneunt apud Curri et Socios.

It is now just three-and-thirty years since Mr. Walker's admirable edition of Livy, with annotations, in eight volumes, was given to the world; it is, however, adapted chiefly to the use of more advanced students. The volume at present under notice is of an humbler but perhaps not less useful character. It seems intended solely for the use of schools and tyros, and accordingly it contains only the precise portion of Livy read in the entrance course of Trinity College, with a very voluminous collection of notes, compiled from Walker and various other sources, and translated into English. It is certainly by far the best school book that we are acquainted with for boys commencing Livy, as it contains a vast body of necessary information, presented in a form that renders it easily accessible.

The text of the first edition was extremely incorrect; we are glad to see that the typography and some other minor details of the present one, have been much more carefully attended to: it is printed at the University press, and is really a very respectable looking school book, which, both as a Dublin publication, and the best of the kind we are acquainted with, we feel great pleasure in recom-

mending to all candidate-gibes, and others, who cultivate Minerva on the lower forms.

#### PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

##### *Frazer's Magazine.*

THE blending of the London Magazine with the New Monthly, and the sudden dissolution of "Sharp's Magazine," introduced "Frazer's" to the public. Another and perhaps a better reason might be found in this, that the established Magazines seemed to have been worn out, and had become unusually dull and heavy. The attempt on Frazer's part was a bold one, and met with deserved success. We refrained from criticism on the first number, knowing that a great effort is generally made at starting, which is likely to be the shorter from its violence; however, as a second number has appeared, it becomes our duty to notice the new Magazine. The politics of this periodical are tory, and are boldly enough expressed; "our confession of faith," in the first number, is written with considerable energy—but in politics, and in every thing else, this Magazine is evidently an exact imitation of Blackwood, whose worst faults the writers in Frazer have most faithfully copied. In the article American poetry, it is observed of Channing, that he is conspicuous for elegant diction, but not a man of original conceptions; from this opinion, we entirely dissent, believing as we do, that in his Character of Bonaparte, and in his Essay on the Writings of Milton, Doctor Channing has displayed not merely diction elegant and correct, but proved that he has thought deeply and philosophically, and that he could embody his vigorous and original conceptions in shapes of life and beauty. However little we may approve of certain peculiarities in Doctor Channing's religious opinions, we must admit that he is not a mere Magazine writer, but a man of a serious and philosophical mind, as he has more recently shewn in his "remarks on the disposition which now prevails to form associations, and to accomplish all objects by organized masses," which exhibits a novel and interesting view of society, on which, at some future opportunity, we may be tempted to dwell a little more at length. An article on "architectural decoration," seemed to be excellent, but being immoderately long, we were afraid to venture far into it; the review of Montgomery's poetry we think correct in principle, but of the offensive language in which the reviewer's opinion is conveyed, we entirely disapprove.

What a God-send Moore's Byron has been to all the Magazines. Frazer commences the second number with a formidable review of it, and maintains Leigh Hunt's to be the truest account extant of the character and habits of Byron.—What strikes us as the principal difference between Blackwood's and Frazer's review of Mr. Moore's book is, that the former consists of sixty, whereas the latter contains only forty pages; and of two evils—our readers know the proverb.

The original papers in the second number are in nowise remarkable, but just the commonplace Magazine articles. There is, however, a review entitled "Donovan the intoxicator," which we have no hesitation in pronouncing as unfair, as uncandid, and as insolent a piece of criticism as ever disgraced the literature of England: in the first page of this review, after other indecent and hackneyed comments on

the "Hibernian Author," the reviewer observes, "True it is, that the man is a donkey, in every page erecting ears of alarming magnitude; but an ass, after all, is a beast useful to man, harmless in his ordinary propensities, and we proceed through without murmur the various fooleries of the book before us, chewing the absurdities which we meet with, as laboriously and as patiently as a brother of the breed of Donovan would chew so many thistles." The other comments on this gentleman's book are conceived in the same taste and spirit: against this manner of reviewing, we enter our decided protest; it is no less offensive to the author, than hurtful to the interests of literature; if a book be published, let its merits and defects be laid fairly before the public—if it be insulting to good feeling and morality, let it be unhesitatingly and strongly condemned; but in all events, let there be no personal allusions, which are at all times vulgar and misplaced; let there be no paltry and contemptible jokes on the name, the occupation, or the country of the writer. Coarse scurrility and virulent abuse should be far removed from the pages of a work which professes, we should say, presumes, to adjudicate on the literature of the day, to enlighten the understanding, and polish the manners of the public. When our feelings are shocked by the perusal of vituperation so shameful as that which we extracted from Frazer, how refreshing, if we may use Mr. Jeffrey's phrase, it is to turn to the good old Spectator, a work now we fear too much neglected, but one in which kindness, taste and genius are so happily and so beautifully blended.

Mr. Donovan is known as a man of science; his book, which our readers may remember we reviewed in No. VIII. of the D. L. G. has some trifling faults, but on the whole, it is an excellent and entertaining publication, and has been highly commended by scientific gentlemen, who from their peculiar pursuits, are best calculated to pronounce an opinion on the matter.

The reviewer concludes his critique on Mr. Donovan's books as follows: "Good bye for the present, Dionysius Lardner—why do you call yourself Dionysius? At home they baptised you Denis, which your progenitors pronounced *Dinisch*, if you publish in continuation a book on Cookery, as you ought, knock the *n* out of your name, and come forward under the title of Larder. It would be almost as good as Kitchiner." Our readers will appreciate and admire the exquisite taste which prompted these concluding observations.

For a long time coarseness seemed indissolubly united with strength in the Periodical Literature of Great Britain; that strong minds have generally something of a natural tendency towards coarseness, we are inclined to admit, but it is a tendency that may be struggled against and overcome. The public, who have hitherto only endured the slang for the sake of the wit, may possibly find out that mental vigor and pure good taste are not altogether incompatible; and they will no longer countenance or tolerate calumnious ribaldry, devised in open violation of decency, truth and honour, for the sake of setting on some quantity of barren-minded readers to laugh, when they have seen that vigorous good sense, and even a vein of shrewd and caustic wit or playful humour, may be met with in the productions of men who would scorn to forfeit for applause or gold, the exalted character of scholar, gentleman, and Christian.